

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A heddle for a weaving loom comprising:  
an eyelet;  
a break in the circumference of the eyelet, wherein the break allows insertion and removal of a warp thread in the eyelet while both ends of the warp thread are attached to the weaving loom.
2. The heddle as set forth in claim 1, wherein a spiral loop between the ends of the heddle comprises an eyelet, and overlapping portions of the spiral loop comprise the break, and the warp thread can be inserted in the eyelet when the heddle is positioned substantially parallel to the warp thread.
3. The heddle as set forth in claim 1, wherein the break comprises a V-shaped cut in the circumference of the eyelet.
4. The heddle as set forth in claim 1, wherein the break comprises a split between two overlapping portions of the circumference of the eyelet.
5. The heddle as set forth in claim 4, further comprising a fastener operable in a closed position to retain the overlapping portions together, and to allow the overlapping portions to be moved apart in an open position to allow the warp thread to be inserted and removed from the eyelet.
6. The heddle as set forth in claim 5, wherein the fastener comprises at least one protuberance on one of the overlapping portions that engages a corresponding indentation on the other overlapping portion.
7. The heddle as set forth in claim 1, wherein the break comprises an interlocking snap closure.
8. The heddle as set forth in claim 1, wherein one end of the break comprises a movable finger portion, and another end of the break comprises a channel portion configured to engage the finger portion in a closed position.

9. A method of warping a loom comprising:  
positioning the warp thread against the periphery of an eyelet in the heddle; and  
moving the warp thread through a break in the periphery of the eyelet.
10. The method as set forth in claim 9, further comprising inserting the warp thread through the break in the eyelet after the ends of the warp thread are attached to the loom.
11. The method as set forth in claim 9, further comprising removing the warp thread from the eyelet while the ends of the warp thread are attached to the loom.
12. The method as set forth in claim 9, further comprising removing the warp thread through the break in the eyelet, and removing the heddle from the frame while the ends of the warp thread are attached to the loom.
13. A warp beam comprising:  
a deck;  
a plurality of retaining members configured in spaced relationship to one another on the deck, wherein each retaining member retains a strand of warp thread that is substantially parallel to lines of warp thread retained by the other retaining members.
14. The warp beam as set forth in claim 13, wherein each end of the warp thread is attached to one of the retaining members.
15. The warp beam as set forth in claim 14 wherein an end of the warp thread is adhesively attached to the loom.
16. The warp beam as set forth in claim 14 wherein an end of the warp thread is retained by a fastener.
17. The warp beam as set forth in claim 14 wherein the retaining members are spring-mounted to maintain substantially consistent tension on the lines of warp thread.

18. The warp beam as set forth in claim 13, further comprising a retaining bar, wherein the retaining bar is positioned to exert compressive force on the warp thread to help retain the warp thread relative to the retaining members.

19. The warp beam as set forth in claim 14, further comprising a retention strip positioned adjacent to the retaining members.

20. The warp beam as set forth in claim 19, wherein the retention strip is fabricated with elastic material capable of deflecting when the warp threads are inserted around the retaining members, and returning to substantially original shape.

21. The warp beam as set forth in claim 13, further comprising a plurality of attachment points connected to the deck to attach the warp beam to a loom.

22. A method for warping a loom comprising:  
winding a length of warp thread back and forth in consecutive, spaced, substantially parallel lines between spaced apart warp beams.

23. The method as set forth in claim 22, further comprising:  
attaching one of the warp beams to each end of a weaving loom; and  
inserting each parallel line of warp thread through a corresponding heddle.

24. The method as set forth in claim 22, further comprising:  
attaching one end of the warp thread to a retaining member; and  
attaching the other end of the warp thread to another retaining member.

25. The method as set forth in claim 22 further comprising wrapping a portion of the warp thread around retaining members on at least one of the warp beams.

26. The method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the warp beams are attached to the loom before the warp thread is wound between the warp beams, and the warp thread is wound on the warp beams before the lines of warp thread are inserted in the heddles.

27. The method as set forth in claim 22, further comprising using the attachment points and an attachment media to attach one warp beam to a back roller, and the other warp beam to a front roller.

28. The method as set forth in claim 27, further comprising suspending many yards of warp thread between two warp beams, wrapping excess warp thread around a roller, together with one of the warp beams and any attachment media.

29. A kit for retrofitting a loom, comprising:  
a first warp beam;  
a second warp beam, wherein the first and second warp beams include retaining members for retaining portions of warp thread in spaced apart substantially parallel relation, and the first and second warp beams are attachable to the loom.

30. The kit of claim 29, further comprising:  
a heddle comprising an eyelet, wherein the eyelet includes an openable break in the circumference of the eyelet, and the openable break allows insertion and removal of a warp thread through the eyelet while the ends of the warp thread remain attached to the loom.